

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCEM-02 AEC-11 INT-08 ACDA-19

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10

IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 SS-20 NSC-10

FPC-01 AGR-20 H-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SCI-06

DRC-01 /261 W

----- 124350

R 300953Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 779

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AU

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FURTHER AUSTRIAN MEASURES TO CONSERVE FUEL

REFERENCE: VIENNA 9702

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SUMMARY. GOA HAS CALLED FOR VOLUNTARY CLOSING OF GAS STATIONS ON SUNDAYS BUT CONTINUES TO STATE THAT THERE IS NO NEED YET FOR GENERAL RATIONING OR SUNDAY DRIVING BAN. GOVERNMENT MAY RATION BUNKER "C" OIL, HOWEVER. PLANS FOR AUSTRIA'S SECOND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT STEPPED UP. END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AFTER WEEKEND MEETING WITH OIL COMPANY REPS, TRADE MINISTER STARIBACHER ANNOUNCED MONDAY GOVERNMENT REQUEST THAT GAS STATIONS VOLUNTARILY CLOSE ON SUNDAYS BEGINNING NEXT SUNDAY. OIL COMPANIES HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY WILL COMPLY.

2. TO INCREASE REFINERY OUTPUT OF GASOLINE WITHOUT USING LARGER QUANTITIES OF CRUDE OIL, OCTANE NUMBER OF PREMIUM GAS WILL BE REDUCED FROM 98 TO 97. BY THIS MEASURE GOVERNMENT HOPES SCHWECHAT REFINERY CAN INCREASE DAILY OUTPUT BY APPROXIMATELY 1,500 METRIC TONS. PETROLEIUM INDUSTRY HAS PROPOSED INCREASING LEAD CONTENT OF GAS AS MEANS OF ACHIEVING ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN OUTPUT; THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY GOA.

3. STARIBACHER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO RATIONING OF BUNKER "C" OIL BUT SAID THIS WOULD BE DONE ONLY IF VOLUNTARY QUOTA SYSTEM NOW BEING WORKED OUT DOES NOT PROVE SUCCESSFUL.

4. ALTHOUGH GOA IS THIS WEEK PREPARING NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO PERMIT SUNDAY DRIVING BAN, STARIBACHER CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN PUBLICLY THAT THERE IS STILL NO NEED FOR THIS MEASURE. HE ALSO STATED THAT RATIONING OF MOTOR FUELS WOULD BE RESORTED TO ONLY AS LAST RESORT.

5. GOA HAS ALSO DISCUSSED ENERGY SITUATION WITH POWER UTILITIES WHICH ARE CONSIDERING SOME CUTBACKS IN STREET LIGHTING.

6. ONE FALLOUT OF ENERGY SITUATION IS APPARENT SPEED-UP OF AUSTRIAN PLANS FOR SECOND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. (FIRST PLANT IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.) LONG AWAITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMATION OF PLANNING COMPANY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FUTURE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED. DIR GEN OF FEDERAL POWWER COMPANY STATED IN PRESS CONFERENCE TUESDAY THAT BIDS FOR SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT WILL BE ISSUED NOT LATER THAN MID-1974 SO THAT PLANT CAN BE OPERATIONAL BY 1980 OR 1981. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT MOST PROBABLE LOCATION REMAINS ENNS RIVER SITE.

7. ON DIPLOMATIC FRONT, EGYPTIAN AMB IN VIENNA IS QUOTED IN PRESS AS HAVING SAID THAT, IN HIS VIEW, AUSTRIA QTE HAS ALWAYS BEEN POSITIVELY NEUTRAL IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT UNQTE AND THAT AUSTRIA WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CRUDE OIL FROM ARAB COUNTRIES "AS LONG AS POSSIBLE." END UNCLASSIFIED.

8. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. TRADE MINISTRY'S OIL EXPERT TOLD EMBOFF THIS WEEK THAT AUSTRIA WOULD SOONER OR LATER BE COMPELLED TO TAKE SAME MEASURES OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS TAKE TO CONSERVE FUEL. SPECIFICALLY HE BELIEVES IT INEVITABLE THAT AUSTRIA WILL RESORT TO SUNDAY DRIVING BAN. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT GOA IS PREPARING RATIONING SYSTEM BUT IS KEEPING THIS FROM PUBLIC TO AVOID EXCITING AUSTRIAN POPULATION, WHICH IS HIGHLY HOARDING-PRONE.

9. INFO ON FUEL SITUATION RE AGRICULTURE BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.

10. COMMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES MAJOR FACTOR HOLDING UP INTRODUCTION OF SUNDAY DRIVING BAN IS ACUTE AUSTRIAN CONCERN OVER EFFECTS ON TOURIST INDUSTRY, ALREADY SUFFERING FROM IMPACT OF GERMAN SUNDAY BAN. SAME CONCERN WILL CAUSE AUSTRIANS TO AVOID RATIONING AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.HUMES

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